GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:62
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001
BAN ON POACHING OF WHALE SHARKS
SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of coasts where poaching of Whale Sharks has been taking place;

(b) whether the Government have imposed a ban on poaching of Whale Sharks;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the poaching of Whale Sharks ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) A survey carried out by TRAFFIC-India has reported large scale fishing of Whale Sharks along the coast of Gujarat particularly in Veraval and Okha regions.

(b)&(c)Government of India has imposed a ban on hunting of Whale Sharks by including it in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 with effect from 28.5.2001.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to check the poaching of Whale Sharks are:

i. Legal protection has been provided to Whale Sharks against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

ii. Ministry of Commerce has been requested to prohibit the export of Whale Shark and its derivatives.

iii. Cooperation of Coast Guards and State Government has been sought for preventing poaching and illegal trade of Whale Sharks.

iv. The State Governments have been requested to provide wide publicity regarding ban on hunting and illegal trade of Whale Shark